U.S. DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

LAFAYETTE DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	*	CRIMINAL NO. 6:17-cr-00208
	*	
VERSUS	*	JUDGE DRELL
	*	
ALDES K. "AL" VIDRINE, III (01)	*	MAGISTRATE JUDGE WHITEHURST

STIPULATED FACTUAL BASIS FOR GUILTY PLEA

NOW INTO COURT, comes the United States Attorney for the Western District of Louisiana, through the undersigned Assistant United States Attorney, and the defendant, ALDES K. "AL" VIDRINE ("VIDRINE"), represented by his undersigned counsel, and for the purposes of providing the Court with a factual basis for a plea agreement pursuant to Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, stipulate as follows.

In 2016, VIDRINE worked as the General Manager for Omega Protein, Inc. at its fish processing plant in Abbeville, Louisiana. Omega Protein, Inc. is a producer of omega-3 supplements and other products derived from fish. VIDRINE oversaw the processing plant in Abbeville, Louisiana, where fish are processed into oils used in the production of nutritional supplements. At the Abbeville plant, VIDRINE oversaw the maintenance of an effluent pond to treat process water from the operations at the processing plant. Process water from the plant is pumped into an effluent pond, and the effluent pond treats the process water to ensure the water that is discharged from the pond meets the limits set forth in the plant's Clean Water Act permit issued by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality ("LDEQ").

The LDEQ issued a permit to Omega Protein, Inc. to allow for the discharge of water from the effluent pond, after treatment, from Outfall 001 into a navigable water of the United States, *i.e.*, the Vermillion River. Pursuant to authority delegated to LDEQ by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the provisions of the permit are federally enforceable under Section 1342 of Title 33 of the United States Code. VIDRINE is the signatory on Omega Protein, Inc.'s permit allowing for the discharge of water from the effluent pond into the navigable water of the United States. Omega Protein, Inc.'s permit requires sampling and laboratory analysis of the discharges from the pond, and the results of laboratory analyses must be submitted to LDEQ. Additionally, the permit also requires the reporting to LDEQ of all discharges from the pond into the navigable water of the United States.

On or about February 1, 2016, VIDRINE, ordered the effluent pond to be emptied. Thereafter, Omega Protein, Inc. employees placed a water irrigation pump into the effluent pond and connected the pump to a tractor. The employees then activated the tractor thereby causing the pump to discharge pollutants from the effluent pond into a drain that flowed into a canal that emptied into a navigable water of the United States in violation of the Clean Water Act permit issued to Omega Protein, Inc. by the LDEQ.

The February 1, 2016, discharge was in violation of the permit issued to Omega Protein, Inc., because the process water was not discharged through its permitted location, Outfall 001, and because the discharge was not reported to LDEQ.

VIDRINE knew about the February 1, 2016 discharge, and through lack of proper oversight neglected to cause the process water to be discharged through the properly permitted outfall 001.

For the purposes of venue, at least one act in the furtherance of the crime charged in Count one of the Bill of Information occurred within the Western District of Louisiana.

Aldes K. "Al" Vidrine III — 9-19-17

ALDES K. "AL" VIDRINE, III — DATE
Defendant

Michael D. Skinner — 9-19-17

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